

FLY LINES



NOVEMBER 2025

Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Andrew Fuller, proprietor of the Flyfisher

**November Meeting –
On Thursday, November 20
Commencing 5:30pm**

**At the Flyfisher Store,
211 Moray Street, South Melbourne**

- *Drinks and pizza provided*
- *Lots of free parking nearby*
- *10% discount on all purchases for VFFA members*

Spotting Fish When Your Eyes Aren't What They Used to Be

Sight fishing is one of the best parts of flyfishing — that magic moment when you see the fish before you cast. But as the years roll on those fish seem to be getting sneakier... or maybe our eyes just aren't quite as sharp as they used to be!

Join us for a light-hearted and practical evening on how to keep your sight-fishing game strong, even if your eyesight is slipping a little. We'll dive into everything from polarised lenses and lens tints to glare control, and a few clever gear hacks that'll help you see more and squint less.

Whether you're chasing trout in clear streams or just trying to tie on a size 18 without losing your temper, this night's for you.

You will also have the opportunity to ask Andrew your own questions about sight

fishing, as well as getting your hands on some of the latest eyewear technology while swapping yarns with fellow anglers. Don't miss out on this great chance to pick up some new tricks and enjoy a friendly evening with the local fly fishing community.



Andrew Fuller

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THE VICTORIAN FLY FISHERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

VOL. 76 NO.9 - NOVEMBER 2025

Organisation No. A0024750J

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Vice President's Message

... from John Spragg

As many of you know, I was requested by our past president Simon Joel to take on the position of Vice President in order to represent Simon at VFFA activities and general meetings when he was absent, as Simon had some fishing events scheduled to occur during his presidency. I was happy to do this, but on the understanding that I was not willing to take on the presidency at the conclusion of Simon's presidency due to time restraints and the fact that it was just not in my make up. I'm happy to just be a worker bee.

But then at the end of Simon's presidency we now have the presidency shared by Rodger Muir and myself, two vice-presidents, and I honestly believe that this is working really well.

Due to a number of other competing commitments and priorities Simon and Beth Joel cancelled their memberships with the VFFA. We thank them both for their hard work and exceptional financial generosity over the last few years, and hope to welcome them back once their new house is built and other distractions and priorities are out of the way.

On Sunday October 5 Rodger and I and nine other VFFA members enjoyed the hospitality and comradery of fishing near Thorpdale, hosted by the Latrobe Valley Fly Fishers. We fished a number of stocked farm dams. My guide for the day was their newly elected president, Luke James.

As soon as we arrived at the large dam we were to fish a sizeable brown was spotted patrolling the shore. My first cast was short, my second cast almost landed



John Spragg

on his head, and my third cast dropped just in front of him. He took the fly, and I had him on for about 15 seconds before he managed to shake the fly loose - a small woolly nymph. So I had an "LDR" (Long, Distance Release).

I was so excited to see a fish so soon that I had not made my usual preparatory dummy casts to get my rhythm at least half right. So I did just about everything wrong. It must have been a very hungry or dumb fish.

We subsequently had a great morning fishing, and I did later manage to land a 3.5 lb brown. There were mixed results for the morning, and I did hear that Richard McCormack netted a brown.

Lunch was a barbeque provided by the Latrobe Valley members that was enjoyed by all, and then we had a raffle to cover costs and help with the stocking of the

lakes. I think the VFFA crew won most of the prizes.

I am looking forward very much to our next meeting on November 20 at The Flyfisher at 211 Moray Street, South Melbourne. I am sure Andrew Fuller will put on a great night for us, showing us all the latest gear available for fly fishing.

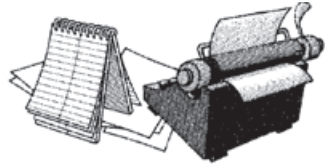
The December meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2, at Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club. We are very fortunate to have Peter Morse as our guest speaker, presenting "Swing is the thing".

The bar opens at 6:30pm, and members and friends are very welcome - \$80/head for a three-course meal. Ask me to show you the collection of still seaworthy clinker boats below the club in the boat house. The address is 129 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park, and located next to the Kerferd Road Pier. Parking is free on the north side of Beaconsfield Parade.



A photo from Trevor Stow – be careful where you put your feet!

From the EDITOR'S DESK

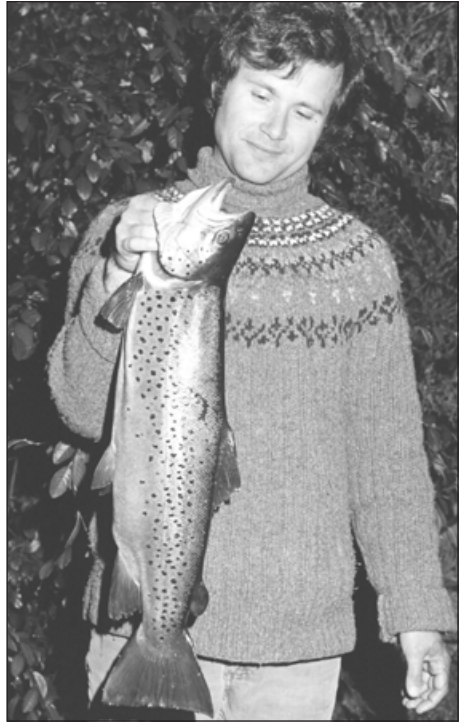


... from Lyndon Webb

Later this week I'll be heading off to Warrnambool for the Warrnambool Fly Fisher's annual November fly fishing weekend. The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, and involves VFFA guests fishing some of the local Warrnambool rivers guided by the generous and enthusiastic and well-informed local club members. The day's fishing is then followed by a magnificent evening meal at Jim Blakeslee's property on the upper Merri. It's always a truly fabulous weekend.

Your editor has some knowledge of the Warrnambool trout fishing, as I had lived in this marvellous country town for ten years. In the early 1970s I was working at a teachers' college in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), and we had enjoyed five very pleasant years there. But PNG was heading towards independence and living in Port Moresby had become a tad unsafe, especially at night. So we decided it was time to return home. I filled in a teacher application form, posted it off to the Victorian Education Department, and was subsequently offered a position at Warrnambool High School. So we packed up and settled in Warrnambool.

Warrnambool was where I learned to fly fish. There were four good rivers there – the Moyne over at Port Fairy, the Merri and Hopkins running through or close to Warrnambool city, and the Mount Emu Creek out near Panmure. All of these had mud bottoms so trout couldn't breed in them, but our very generous VFA stocked them all, so we had access to some great trout fishing.



Jim Blakeslee with a superb trout

Soon after we settled in Warrnambool I was told that the Moyne River near Port Fairy was worth a visit, so I drove across and walked in along the old railway track to the bridge over the river. The Moyne is not all that large – just a creek really, but it held a solid population of stocked, well fed, and generally large brown trout. On my first visit there I was standing on the bank near the railway bridge flicking a weighted nymph upstream and quietly retrieving it (and catching nothing), when I happened to look down. In the shortish



And Jim again – with another magnificent brown from the rivers at Warrnambool

grass between my feet there was a large snake curled up in a tight circle. I just don't know I hadn't stood on it at some stage.

I quickly leapt backward a metre or two, but the snake didn't move or react. Perhaps it was dead? I leaned across and gave it a nudge in the ribs with the tip of my fly rod. No - it wasn't dead. It leapt into action, glaring at me, then belting off downstream. The Moyne had, and I suspect still has, plenty of snakes.

Early on in my time teaching at Warrnambool High School Jim Blakeslee arrived and joined the staff. I soon discovered that he was a master fly fisher. I took him over to the Moyne to show him one of our trout streams, and in no time he had hooked and landed a brown that from memory weighed between 7 and 8 pound. A truly outstanding catch.

Some weeks later I carted him across to the Moyne again. Soon after we arrived he was fishing a pool upstream from where I was located when he called out, telling me that the pool he was on had a couple of large browns cruising up and down. I galloped off to join him, but in scrambling over a barbed-wire fence caught my toe on the top strand and fell headfirst into a

concrete channel. The good news was that I didn't break my rod; the bad news was that I dislocated my left elbow.

So that was the end of the day's fishing. Jim drove me to the Warrnambool hospital, then dropped my gear off at my home and told my dear wife where I was currently located. In the meantime at the hospital an attractive young nurse took me into a room and explained that before I could have surgery to repair my busted arm she had to remove all of my clothing and dress me in a flimsy hospital gown. The difficulty here for me was that I knew the young nurse very well, as a few years earlier she had been a student in one of my senior classes at the local high school. Bother! Or words to that effect.

My Warrnambool fly fishing led to another medical issue. At the end of winter and in early spring the bottom end of the Merri River tended to flood, and numbers of large sea-run trout arrive there. It was a well-known local phenomenon and parking spots at the Swinton Street bridge were often hard to find. And the fish were big. My largest was a mere sprat a tad over five pound, but Jim had caught a couple of eight pounders. They were monsters and very impressive catches.

I recall arriving there late one August afternoon. It was already getting dark and the clouds looked ominous. A strong wind was howling downstream from my right. Not pleasant. But then a fish splashed on the other side of the river. It splashed again - and moved a lot of water. It was big. It deserved an attempt at least. So I tried to cast my fly, a large longtail thing supposedly representing some local fry, but in casting right-handed with the wind howling onto my right shoulder, the line blew around me and the fly managed to hook itself in my neck just below my left ear.

This was a problem. First, I didn't have another good longtail fly. Second, it was painful and very inconvenient. Just then Neil Martin, another member of the local club, arrived. He offered to make some surgical repairs with his fishing pliers, but I decided it might be wiser to head off to our local family doctor. I arrived at the surgery just as he was packing up to leave, but he appreciated the need to stay a bit longer. A needle with some anaesthetic brew settled the pain, and in no time the fly was detached from my ear. The doctor asked if I wanted the fly back, but I told him to throw the confounded thing in the bin.

After ten years living in Warrnambool we moved back to Melbourne, mainly for family reasons. Melbourne is a great city and a beautiful place to live, but in talking with other VFFA members at a recent meeting we agreed that it has drawbacks for us fly fishers in terms of easy access to good trout streams.

If you choose your country town judiciously top trout fishing can be just a

short drive away. My very best example of this was the house of longtime VFFA member Brian Eddy. Brian recently moved, but for many years he lived at Harrietville, just 24 kilometres from Bright in our state's north-east. I well recall visiting Brian at Harrietville one evening. His house had a lengthy back lawn, and the upper reaches of the Ovens River actually flowed across the end of his back lawn. We stood together on a warm evening, and watched three or four trout rising consistently in the river. That has to be the best location for a house in our state if you are a dedicated fly fisher.

But for us Melbourne-based fly fishers, a couple of hours drive to one of our favourite trout streams is well worth it if they're rising when we get there. Of course it's even better if you have a fly fishing travelling companion with you.

Let's hope this late spring and early summer gives us some top days on our favourite stream.



They prefer to be in the water

Australian Trout Foundation Leading the Way

... from the Victorian Fisheries Authority September
Recreational Fisheries Management Update



Enthusiastic helpers and members at a recent ATF event

The 2025 Spring trout season opened on Saturday, September 6, and with all the anticipation of what the new year will bring, it is timely to reflect on what has been done to improve our exciting trout fishing, and the rivers and streams in which they live.

The Australian Trout Foundation (ATF) has been working tirelessly for years to develop partnerships with landholders, Catchment Management Authorities and other waterway/land managers to improve the habitat for trout in our beautiful clearwater streams.

This massive effort is bearing fruit! The following statistics demonstrate the scale and impact that this band of volunteers is having:

- 32 riparian projects delivered across 14 rivers;
- Nearly 80,000 trees planted to improve riparian areas;
- 19 in-stream habitat projects in 10 rivers, including placement of hardwood logs and large boulders to create greater diversity, refuge and natural recruitment of wild trout;

- Strong partnerships with around a dozen fishing clubs and four Catchment Management Authorities, and many more in the pipeline.

For more details on how to get involved with the ATF's many programs for restoring trout habitat please go to: <https://australiantroutfoundation.com.au/>

Fish Stocking Program Updates

The salmonid stocking season has reached the halfway mark with over 750,000 fish stocked across Victoria's waters since March. Victoria received minimal rainfall in 2024 leading to a challenging start to the season, with water levels in many waters remaining significantly low, leaving them unsuitable for stocking until levels increased.

Thankfully, the rain received over the winter months has enabled us to continue our salmonid stocking program, pushing us towards to our goal of stocking **1.3 million** brown trout, rainbow trout, tiger trout and Chinook salmon into 150 waters by the end of October.

May Stocking Record

In a new record, we stocked over 360,000 salmonids from Snobs Creek this May, beating the historical average ranging from 150,000 to 250,000 fish – that’s 8.6 ton of fish moved in one month! This included a mix of brown and rainbow trout and resulted in 18 waters receiving their full allocation for the year.

Our specially on-grown family fishing rainbow trout were stocked in time for the June/July school holidays. Within 3 weeks the Snobs Creek team were able to stock over 36,000 rainbows (5.8 ton) into 71 waterways.

Rain-reliant waters with low water levels did not receive fish but are scheduled to receive their share in time for the September school holidays.

We also had a first-time stocking of 300 on-grown rainbow trout into Expedition Pass Reservoir near Castlemaine, which will receive another 300 prior to the September school holidays, creating more angling opportunities in Victoria’s north-west.

Federal Government reject VFA’s EPBC Nomination

In disappointing news, the Federal Government has rejected the VFA’s proposal to nominate carp as a Key Threatening Process under the Federal EPBC Act. The EPBC lists 11 other invasive species as Key Threatening Processes, including rabbits, goats, rats, foxes, feral pigs, fire ants and others. These listings have driven threat abatement plans and actions over decades to better manage these invasive species.

The grounds for their decision include “... there are a range of established abatement arrangements, emerging technologies and biocontrol approaches that are already



Australian Trout Foundation members again working hard to improve the environment for our trout

being employed to address impacts of common carp”.

This decision was made despite the Federal Government’s conservation theme for 2025 to “support the protection and recovery of species and ecological communities at risk from invasive species, disease and pathogens”.

Our response to this decision is current “established abatement arrangements” are not effective in managing carp numbers. Carp numbers are at an all-time high across the MD Basin and their impacts are devastating rivers wetlands and threatened native fish.

Emerging technologies and biocontrol approaches are not being employed to address the impacts of common carp. The carp virus research has been going for 17 years and there is no clear timeline for deciding about the use of the carp virus.

Despite this set back, we’re committed to raising awareness about the impacts of carp, the need for more resources and more effective tools to manage carp. We’re developing a plan to trial the carp virus in a bio secure, controlled field facility, if we can secure access to the carp virus. The cost of doing nothing more on carp threatens our rivers, wetlands and native fish while undermining the development of our inland recreational fisheries.

Fishing Lakes

... by Craig Coltman

This material is from The Flyfisher's Podcast, the Flyfisher, Australia



Craig is a superb angler and guide

(This article is about pulling wet flies – a technique that is unbelievably affective. It looks very simple, but at the end of the day there is a lot of technique in it, and it can be an incredibly effective way to catch fish, particularly when there's nothing visibly going on.)

We all love to go out and enjoy a perfect day of fishing, with mayfly hatching and the fish feeding off the surface. But the reality is that most of the time that's not what's happening. So you've got to go subsurface if you want to catch fish. You need to think about what the fish are doing, and quite often they are down deep, feeding on things that aren't actually moving away from them.

When you are pulling flies there's actually two things going on. You're delivering your fly to where the fish are actually feeding, which is obviously at some depth. But you're also tapping into not just their feeding behaviour, but also the aggressive and inquisitive nature of fish. People think that flies are taken purely because they're imitating a food source of the fish., but another reason why flies are taken is because fish are inquisitive,

and the only way they can investigate something is to look at it or stick it in their mouths. So a fish sees your fly, and he's inquisitive so he puts it in his mouth.

The other factor of course is aggression, and that particularly comes into play late in the season and again early in the new season. In pre-spawning and post-spawning periods the fish are generally more aggressive. They're more inclined to say: "It's in my space, I'm going to kill it!" So one of these reasons is why trout will take your fly.

Now some folk might regard pulling streamers as just a little artless. They probably don't really appreciate the technique that is involved. Consider, for example, our state or national competitions where a lot of fly pulling will occur. If it was just a matter of chucking it out and pulling it in, why is it that the same anglers always seem to do consistently well, while others don't? It's because the successful ones understand the subtleties and the technique involved in that style of fishing.

Us anglers with a fly rod and a fly can do a whole lot more with the way that we present our fly than a lure fisherman can. What us fly fishers have got going for us is that we can deliver something that is either unweighted or very lightly weighted, so we have more control over how our lure (i.e. our fly) is behaving in the water.

If I'm dragging a Tassie Devil around it's going to sink like a brick. But a fly is going to descend in the water in a far more subtle or controlled way.

There are five things that, in my opinion, you should consistently do when you are fishing flies, and these are equally necessary whether you're fishing off the bank or out of the boat.

First is the 'plop', then you've got the 'drop', then the 'retrieve', then the 'hang', and finally the 'lift'. All five of these stages of the retrieve are equally important, and you should always do them. Sometimes you'll find that one particular stage will work better for you on a particular day than the others, but it must become second nature for you to automatically do these five things.

By the 'plop' I mean you want your line and the fly to land on the water gently, and for the fly to go in with an enticing little plop. If it crashes on the water that's a disaster. But fish will feel the plop through its lateral line, and they'll come over to investigate. Sometimes you'll get a hit almost the instant the fly hits the water, because the fish has come over to investigate. A crash is the opposite - scaring the fish away.

So that's number one.

Number two is the 'drop', where the fly is sinking in the water column. At this point it's very important to keep in contact with your fly. I tend to make a very slow figure-of-eight retrieve just to make sure I remain in good contact with that fly. If you're in a boat that's drifting, you obviously may have to go a little bit faster here.

So, your line is dead straight, and you've pointed your rod straight down the line and you're feeling for anything. I tend to go down in counts of five, so first time it will be five, then 10, then 15, then 20, and so on.

The length of time you do that for will depend on where the fish are sitting and how deep they are. But obviously, too,

it will depend on the amount of weight in your fly, the depth of the water you're fishing, and the amount of weed there is. And of course, in a drifting boat it's how fast the boat is drifting.

So you need to allow for all of that. Eventually you'll find that fish are sitting at about, say, a count of 15. So that's what you'll start to do consistently.

Second is the 'drop'. Now you are into the retrieve. Of course there's a range of different retrieves you can use, from very slow figure of eights up to flat out roly-poling. As a general rule for trout I like a smooth retrieve, and not the jerky retrieve you might use, say, for bream or estuary perch. And I like long strips, bringing my hand right in behind my back. So - big long strips, and quite fast. Most anglers, I find, fish too slow.

So you need to get the fish's attention and force it into making a decision. If the fly is going fast it gets his attention and it doesn't give him very long to investigate the fly. He's got to grab it. I think that's one of the reasons why roly-poling is so effective - it's because you've got that constant retrieve. The fly is coming along constantly through the water with no stops and starts.

When I'm guiding at Millbrook where anglers may be fishing lures at times, I inevitably I find that they are fishing their lures too slow. I always say: "Speed up, go faster, use longer strips!"

So as a general rule, if in doubt - fish faster, no slower. When you're fishing nymphs, that's different, but when you're pulling lures you need to go faster.

Often, particularly if you're fishing off a bank, you'll find that you will catch a fish fairly quickly - say within the first three or four casts. If I'm fishing off the bank, I like to keep moving. I'll put in say five

casts panned around, and if there's nothing there, I keep going, because if a fish is there and if he's inclined to take it, you'll get him in the first five casts.

Now when you're fishing off the bank, then unless you happen to be fishing off a dam wall or something like that, normally you don't have much depth of water to play with. So while the drop is still important, you're not going to be counting up to say 30, because your fly would then get hung up on the bottom. So probably you'd count to say about 10 before you start retrieving. You don't have the same depth of water to deal with as you may have if you're fishing out of the boat, depending of course on the piece of water that you're fishing. And of course, if you're boat fishing you're drifting, so you're always covering fresh water.

When I'm fishing off a bank I like to fish quite quickly. You can always come back to a particular spot if you need to, and you can always keep on cycling along a particular piece of bank.

The next phase of our retrieve is the 'hang'. The hang is really just a stop. When you're retrieving and you've got just six metres of line still out, then at this point I just stop and let the fly fall in the water. If you're using a 2.7 to 3.0 metre rod, then you'll have another three metres of line out still. I put a little hang marker on my lines at six metres, so I know that when that comes to hand my fly is still six metres out.

Now often a fish will be following the fly but not committing, so that 'stop', that 'hang', is forcing the fish into doing something. He's either going to eat your fly or he's going to crash into it. It's crunch time.

So you just let it hang, and the length of time for the hang will vary depending

on the amount of line, the depth of water you've still got, how fast the boat is moving if you're in a boat, and on the location, too. If you're fishing up on Lake Eucumbene in a boat for example, you hang and hang and hang for as long as you possibly can, because the fish there seem to like a really long hang. Perhaps other lakes - maybe not as long. But the hang is critically important.

Finally, there's the lift. When I'm guiding, I'll say, "Put your rod tip in the water if you need to. It's not going to melt!" because my client may have his/her fly rod lifted three or four feet off the water - which means they're not in contact. I like to have the rod straight down the line to remain in contact with the flies.

Then finally, once we've got the hang out of the way we're then going to lift the fly back up in the water (and we don't just rip the fly out!). We lift up smoothly until we're seeing the fly (or flies), and if there's nothing following, we then normally go into a roll cast and send them back out.

Gotcha! We've all done it. We've just pulled our fly off the water and there's a big boil behind the fly. That fly ascending up in the water is a real trigger for the fish to say: "I'll have that!"

So, how much line have we got out when we start the hang? Try six metres of fly line plus your leader. Again, I put my hang marker on, which is a bit of UV fly paint - that bright orange stuff. I put it on six metres from the end of the fly line.

So that's the five key elements of the recreation. You just need to make sure you're always doing all of them. It then becomes a habit.

Another thing that people do if, the hang is working really well, is to do a hang halfway through your retrieve. If you haven't retrieved all the way in and

you're still only halfway through your retrieve, then hang it. Start retrieving, and when it's really working well you can do multiple hangs throughout a cast.

Let's talk now about the rods that we might use for this style of fishing. I actually use two different types of rods. If I'm fishing off a bank I use a 9'6" rod. It's just a little bit shorter, and the reason I use this rod is that it helps me to cast a tighter loop because when I'm off the bank I may have to cast across the breeze or into the breeze. And the shorter rod helps in that situation, as it has a slightly faster action and thus slightly smaller loops. Hence a more penetrating cast.

But if I'm fishing out of the boat, then inevitably I'm fishing downwind or at least no more than across the wind. So here I'll use a 10 foot rod, because 10 foot rods do give you better line control. I'd always prefer to use the 10 foot rod if I can, but it's not necessarily the correct tool for off the bank.

When the Australian team went away to Islay recently, we used 9'6" and 9'8" rods because we knew we might be casting into the wind at times. I guess that if you're in a boat fishing, the longer rod tends to throw a more open loop, but that doesn't matter because you're fishing downwind anyway.

I like a mid to fast action 6 weight rod, and I upline everything. So all my lines are 7 weight lines on my 6 weight rods, because modern 6 weight rods actually work better with 7 weight lines.

Fortunately, the fly line companies have caught up with that now. So, when you buy a '6 weight line' these days it's now actually built one size heavier. So, in essence, you are buying a 7 weight fly line for your 6 weight rod, which has confused the hell out of everything. So don't go

buying a 7 weight line to run on your 6 weight rod, because you will then in fact be buying an 8 weight line to run on your 6 weight line. So the vast majority of lines are overweight these days.

These days they're all weight-forward lines too. And you can get longer-headed lines these days. I do, for a couple of reasons, and particularly with floating lines, because this enables me to lift or aerialise more line and lift more line off the water than I could with a short-head line. Which means that if I see a fish move, I can cover him faster. And the quicker you can cover a fish, the more chance you have of catching it.

A lot of people probably use floating lines these days for most of their fishing. Can someone go out with just a floating line these days and confidently expect to do productive streamer fishing? Of course! You will catch fish on floating lines.

At Millbrook when we're fishing off the bank we use floating lines a lot. For my bank fishing I actually only use two different lines - a floating line and a sink tip intermediate line. And the reason why I do this - because full sinking lines, when you're fishing off the bank, are a pain in the backside. They sink, and they get tangled around your feet, and they get tangled in the vegetation. They just don't work very well. So I want a line that's going to float on the surface when I'm fishing off the bank.

But if I'm fishing out of a boat, that's a completely different scenario. Here the line is falling into the boat, so I don't have those line management issues that I have off the bank. So that's when I use full sinking lines.

Then again, you can still fish out of a boat and fish a floating line if the fish are in very shallow water. But more often than

not I'm fishing an intermediate or a DI3 or a DI5 line. And I carry those in both density-compensated lines and sweep lines.

(Sweep lines are used for fly fishing lakes because their design allows them to cover a range of depths with a single cast, which is ideal for searching for fish when their location is unknown. They achieve this because different sections of the line have varying sink rates, creating a U-shaped path through the water during a retrieve - from the surface down to the deepest point, then back to the surface again. This "sweep" action is very effective for presenting flies to fish at different levels in the water column.)

Basically, a sweep line goes down belly first, which means that the flies in effect are going to get pulled through an arc. So they're going to be going down and they're going to be coming up. And a fly that's descending or ascending in the water is particularly attractive to fish. So my preference would always be to fish a sweep line if I could. But of course, I've got to have enough depth under me to get that sweep going, and in anything less than about two metres of water the sweep lines don't really work at their optimum.

So you're actually better off with a density-compensated line where the line goes down straight. You then have a straight line effectively between the fly and the rod tip, which means that the line's not going to be dragging in the weed or on the bottom in shallow water. So if I'm fishing in two metres or less, I use a density compensated line, and if I'm fishing in more than two metres I'll fish a sweep line.

You'll see down in Tassie now that one of the favourite lines anglers use early season when pulling flies on Penstock Lagoon, for example, is a five-weight

sweep line. Why would that work? The reason is they pull the line so fast it never gets a chance to sweep.

But there's only a few waters that it would actually be that useful when compared to a density compensated fly line. If I'm fishing Woods Lake where I've got a bit more depth, I'll be fishing the sweep line. But if I'm fishing Little Pine or Penstock Lagoon, I'm using a density-compensated line.

I use a nine foot tapered leader down to 2X, and then I'll have about five feet of 2X fluorocarbon running off that. So, I've got a dropper and I've got a point fly and they're about five feet apart. And I go with the tapered leader for the same reason as I'm using the shorter rod - because I can deliver that across or into the wind. And I'm only fishing two flies. When I'm fishing bigger flies, it's one fly at 9 feet and another fly at 14 feet.

If I'm fishing out of the boat I just use a level cast of 2X, then seven feet to the first dropper and seven feet to the point. I can get away with that because I'm predominantly casting downwind.

The reason I keep the flies only five feet apart when I'm off the bank is because if they were seven feet apart, it would be quite hard to cast either across or into the wind. Downwind out of the boat it doesn't really matter. My preference is to always have the weighted fly on the point and the unweighted fly on the dropper.

Occasionally I will fish two weighted flies, but my preference is to not do that. In the competition scene lots of people do, but I don't. At Little Pine, as an example, Magoo-style flies work very well there. I'll have a black one on the point with a bead-head and then another olive Magoo on the dropper. It presents better. It's easier to cast. The whole thing feels better.

We talked earlier about the plop. You get a louder plop from the bead. That potentially can spook a fish rather than just a nice little plop.

Let's talk briefly about fly lines. The ones that you want to always have, are an Intermediate, a DI3 and a DI5. Right. These will get you out of most situations.

If you're fishing the top of the water column then that's where you need a floating line and a hover line. These are the two main ones that you'd select for that style of fishing. Would you ever fish a hover line with your streamers? Oh yes, you would. If the fish are sitting really high in the water, I would fish a hover line. If they're high in the water and moving a lot and I still wanted to fish streamers I'd probably fish a floater, because I can lift that off the water to cover a fish. Which you can't do with a fly line that's sunk, irrespective of whether it's sunk down a metre or two metres in the water - it's still sunk. So you've got to pull it all the way in to make a recast. And that would just depend on what's happening on the day.

Let's just talk about some of the waters that are very productive in terms of

streamer fishing. I suppose for a start you need a bit of depth. Normally streamer fishing isn't going to work in the shallow margins because there's too much weed and stuff. You will get tangled up in it all the time. So a static-style presentation is going to be needed in really shallow water.

If we talk about Little Pine Lagoon, which a lot of anglers know, I'm seldom fishing streamers off the bank - because it's shallow, isn't it? So we're out in the boat early season, and that's a different situation altogether. You can definitely fish streamers out in the deeper water, because you've got a bit of depth to work with.

And of course the other factor is the time of the year. I've had amazing fishing at Little Pine pulling streamers in February. But the weather was terrible, so there weren't any hatches. It was freezing cold, so it was streamer weather. And fish were coming up, because there was no bugs.

To finish - if there are no fish on top, you go down to where the fish are because the fish would be looking down, and not looking up.



Brown trout are an attractive fish

Midge Fishing

... from Jim Jackman



Two of Jim's midge patterns – both very likely to catch the eye of a cruising trout

The key to successfully targeting midge feeders in lakes is to have a basic understanding of the midges' life cycle. Once this is understood then the fly can be presented to where the fish are feeding and of course where they can see the fly.

The midge season is mainly from early spring to early summer. Often a secondary season will occur in autumn. It all depends on the prevailing climate and the altitude of the lake. The surface water temperature is the prime driver of a midge's life cycle. They begin their process towards maturity when the water temperature is about 10°C and taper off at about 19°C. So depending on the climate and altitude they can hatch all year round.

The midge begins its life as an egg and hatches into the larvae form, commonly referred to as a bloodworm, because they are mostly red in colour. However, they can also be green or brown. Bloodworms live at the bottom of lakes in the silt, and can stay in the larvae stage for up to two years. It is worth noting they can be found at all depths, and not just in shallow margins as is usually believed.

So let's talk about targeting midge at the larvae stage. The first problem to overcome is to find a way of getting the fly to where they are, given it could be anywhere from 5 to 50 ft. Targeting bloodworm feeders is mostly a daytime activity.

Use a floating line with a long leader

I like to have 20 cents each way here, so have a red buzzer on the point and a black/olive buzzer on the dropper about 5 ft above the point.

In my view the most efficient way is to use indicators

The advantage here is that the fly can be left in the feeding zone for extended periods, allowing the fish time to find the fly. The disadvantage with indicators is that the depth set is usually restricted by the length of the rod. I found the answer to this problem by watching footage by Phil Rowley in Canada. He has developed a quick release indicator that can be fished way down to 20 ft. This enables fish to be targeted in deeper water where they are unlikely to spook, especially on a bright sunny day.

Here is a link explaining how they work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt8XwFfOcxE>

The next stage is the pupal stage. This is when the midge is very vulnerable. The pupae hatch from the larvae near the bottom, and rise very slowly to the surface in a vertical position with their head up. They use body gases to help them emerge, and this gives the pupae the appearance of having silver bands on their bodies. During a hatch the vast majority of midge consumed by trout are in the pupae stage, even though the surface activity may look frantic.

Some Strategies:

#1 Fish a double pupae rig very slowly on a long leader, and lift from time to time to imitate a rising insect.

#2 Use a pupa set about 12 -14 inches under a dry fly.

#3 Employ a washing line. Tie the pupa above the dry instead of beneath it.

Finally - the adult stage:

I prefer to use a dry fly - not because it is the most productive method (it's not), but because it's the most fun, especially when they are balling up. Something like a Griffiths Gnat tied on a size 12 hook works well. If the rise forms involve a single insect, then go for something smaller. A Red Tag is a fly that is often overlooked because it is regarded as yesterday's fly. However, I would not go midge fishing without one.

Fly selection is not the prime concern when targeting midge feeders. There are a multitude of buzzers and pupae and dry flies available, and they all work. Presentation, size, and profile are key considerations. If it's possible,



Another fine midge pattern

take a look at the shucks to get an idea of the dimensions of the insect. Sometimes it pays to match the size of the natural, especially in the early stages of a hatch. However, when the hatch really intensifies, the number of insects emerging through the water column is staggering, and your fly is like a snowflake in a blizzard.

Try using a team of pupae tied on a straight shank hook stripped a little quicker, in this instance to get their attention, because a curved hook will tend to spin when moved quickly. Pause in between strips to present a static fly.

Bloodworm fishing and the methods employed are fairly consistent and reliable. However, fishing an evening hatch is anything but, and can tax the patience of a saint. If that which worked last night isn't producing, then welcome to the joys of a midge hatch. I think the biggest mistake in this scenario is to keep casting to rising fish. One method is to put a dry fly with a suspended pupa out there in the feeding zone, give it a little tweak from time to time, and wait for a fish to find it.

Another method to employ is to fish a highly buoyant dry fly and create a wake or disturbance. Below is a link to a video

showing a Griffiths variation that can produce good results when the going gets tough during the peak of the hatch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RsRCPkKpp0>

In summary, remember the three golden rules of fly fishing:

Find the food and find the fish;

Put the fly where the fish can see it without spooking it;

And finally, whatever happens ... just remember how many kilometres you are from your lawn mower.



... busy feeding

Some Notes from the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (NSW)

The 2025/26 Newsletter - from Secretary Rod Whiteway

The new season is upon us, and I am cautiously optimistic based on the rainfall the Monaro (particularly the eastern half) has received over autumn and so far this winter. Cautious, because I am unsure what effect cormorant predation and stocking bans and the dry conditions leading up to last Christmas have had on trout numbers.

Last Season

Last season's (July-June) rainfall was low - only a total of 513.5 mm. This was entirely due to a very dry winter and spring period. Despite Bureau of Meteorology forecasts reported by me in last year's newsletter of above average rainfall leading up to November, only 148 mm fell between July and December. By Christmas the Monaro streams were in a very parlous state. All were very low, and sections of some, including the Bobundara, had stopped flowing. Fortunately some rain in January averted a complete disaster, but streams remained low until a good fall of rain in late April and another in late May. The BOM's forecast of above average temperatures was borne out however, and as I forecast, mayfly hatches seemed to be brought forward, particularly on the Maclaughlin and the Bobundara.

There were isolated reports of dead fish throughout the summer, but I tend to think that cormorants were responsible for more fish losses than the weather. I am now a convert to the cormorant-based theories of trout stock depletion, and it seems I am not the only one. Reports are coming in from Victoria and Tasmania too of the birds' effect on trout numbers. Interestingly I read somewhere that

cormorants do not breed in Tasmania, but fly over from the mainland. A pity that we cannot convince more to cross Bass Strait, but then I enjoy fishing in Tasmania too.

An article in a recent *Flylife* magazine about the situation in Tasmania was interesting, giving strategies to cope with the cormorant plague. For example, it suggested fishing in locations frequented by people because they were likely to scare off cormorants. It also made the point that it was a cyclical thing associated with suitable breeding conditions, and that eventually numbers would drop off. While I agree with this, I am unsure how long a cormorant can live for, and of the effect of recent inflows into Lake Eyre and the like on cormorant populations in the near to medium future. We may have a long wait.

Locally, I noticed in the Kydra an overall drop off in fish numbers, and particularly an almost complete absence of small fish last season. In the Maclaughlin and the Bobundara the size of the fish may have limited predation, and certainly there were still good numbers of large fish in these streams at the end of the season. For this reason I tended to concentrate on these streams last season, and there was some very good fishing until the hatches petered out, water levels dropped, and temperatures rose.

While I experienced a couple of good days on the mayfly last season, surprisingly one of the most intense sessions occurred in December, when mayfly activity was waning and the streams were dropping. It demonstrated the benefits of local knowledge. I was fishing the Maclaughlin and it was a hard day. A bit warm and glary, and the bones of the river were starting to show. A few pale watery duns

hatched here and there, but after about a kilometre I had only seen two fish. I put on a damsel nymph and fished a few spots blind but without conviction.

I then came to a medium-sized pool which I knew in better flows connected to a smaller shallower pool that had good consistent dun hatches that the trout liked to get into to feed. There were no fish showing in the shallows of either pool, but I knew that they contained many fish. Then I noticed that there was only one holding place, and that was in the bottom pool, a deep hole about the length and width of my Ford Ranger, beside a rock shelf.

Though the water was relatively clear I could not see the bottom, so could not tell if there was anything lurking there. I flicked my lightly weighted damsel fly into the hole and let it sink out of sight. One twitch and the rod was almost ripped out of my hands, and a brown of around 4 - 5 lb burst from the water and tore off upstream where I managed to keep it and land it.

To cut the story short, in the space of around another 10 or so casts I hooked and landed two more fish, both around 3 - 4 lb. Not pretty fishing, and not much skill required, but I thought I had found the secret to the day. Walking back to the car I tried the same trick in the deeper water I found, but to no avail. I realised then that the pool I had caught the fish in was special. The deep hole was limited in area and the fish were stacked in there, whereas other deep water I fished was more extensive and thus the fish were probably more dispersed and harder to target. Perhaps I could have persisted a bit more, but without the immediate reward I quickly got bored and gave it away. But each time I walk past this hole in future I will flick a Damsel fly or Woolly Bugger into it and hold on.

Recruitment (fish that is)

Low water levels in the Thredbo River in the autumn of 2024 resulted in a very poor run of brown trout up past the trap at Gaden Hatchery. Consequently, Mitch and his staff could not harvest enough ova to fill all stocking requirements. To exacerbate the problem, low water flows in the Thredbo continued up to and right through Christmas. Early in the New Year water temperature in the Thredbo reached an unbelievable 29°C which led to losses in the hatchery. Mitch asked us to take our fish early, as he was concerned that he could lose the lot.

In the end I think that we received about 80% of our requests, for which I was grateful, but we had to put them out in less-than-ideal conditions. We put them in the deeper and hopefully cooler holes in the Kydra, Kybeyan and Bobundara, and in areas we are allowed to stock in the Maclaughlin. A week or so after the stocking the Monaro received a good general rainfall (50mm at Kydra) that freshened up the streams, so I am hopeful that we will see some results. This past autumn Mitch put in place a contingency plan to supplement Thredbo numbers by stripping fish from the Eucumbene River in the event of another poor spawning run up the Thredbo River, but this was unnecessary as rain this autumn facilitated a good run of fish up the Thredbo.

The same autumn rainfall provided ideal conditions for spawning in Monaro streams. There has been good spawning in the Kybeyan, with many more redds than usual at the head of the Golden Mile, and upstream from the reserve above the causeway. Whether that represents greater fish numbers or greater ability of fish to move around because of good flows I'm not sure. In the Kydra, despite good flows, the numbers of redds were lower than last

year, which I think must be construed as evidence of reduced fish numbers. I did not check spawning in the Bobundara and the Maclaughlin prior to the opening, but hope that they have a successful spawning particularly in the section of the Maclaughlin that we are banned from stocking.

The Coming Season

As I stated earlier, I am cautiously optimistic about the new seasons outlook. Once again the BOM is forecasting above average spring rainfall, based on above average sea surface temperatures in the South-east, a neutral ENSO until at least January (though a couple of models show borderline LaNina), and a neutral IOD though tending negative in Spring. Increased rainfall would be good, as it could help offset the effect of the forecast of above average day and night temperatures.

Of course climate is only part of the equation. While there is evidence that enough big fish remain in most streams to provide reasonable sport, I am concerned with how many fish are coming through to supplement or replace these due to losses attributable to cormorants, poor pre-Christmas flows, and concerns about the success of our stocking.

This may be offset if the recent spawning proves to be successful and cormorant numbers decrease. But in any event, any recruitment will take a year or two to reach a good size, so for this reason I encourage anglers to practice catch and release this season. This will be particularly important in areas we are now banned from stocking, such as the mid sections of the Maclaughlin. If we want to maintain a fishery in the Maclaughlin I think that we should release all fish we catch, at least until we can ascertain the effect of the stocking ban.

If river flows remain high I look forward to a more extended period of spring fishing than last season, but it will still depend to some extent on water temperatures. Play it by ear and keep track of weather forecasts. But then again, a day out fishing under almost any circumstances beats a day at home mowing the lawn.

Other Matters

As outlined in last year's newsletter, we are now banned from stocking any trout species in the Murrumbidgee downstream from Tantangara Dam to support action to recover the Macquarie perch population. In further developments we learned that Snowy Hydro are committed to providing \$5million under the Snowy 2 EIS arrangements to offset any effects of the project on Stocky Galaxiids, Murray Crayfish, and Macquarie Perch.

Because the trout river fishery is being pressured to accommodate native fish and their habitat needs, the MAS believe that anglers in the South-East of NSW need to be up to speed on these developments, and be active in the debate and insist that we have a seat at the table when decisions affecting our fishery are made. So the MAS organised a workshop at Gaden Hatchery called: "Towards an integrated freshwater sports fishery that recognises the importance of trout, the potential of native fish, and protects fish that are endangered", held in conjunction with our last meeting and attended by over 50 people, to specifically address the EIS requirements.

Speakers included Elizabeth Pope, a senior environmental scientist from Snowy Hydro, and Luke Pearce from DPIRD's threatened species unit who is undertaking a lot of the groundwork. Speakers outlined progress on Snowy 2 and the research that has been done to

determine the risk of redfin infiltrating Tantangara from Talbingo, precautions taken to prevent this, and to counter their effect if they do (this including the \$5million for a grow out facility at Gaden negotiated by MAS).

Of the EIS money some has gone towards trying to locate further populations of the Stocky Galaxia and to build a permanent barrier on a tributary of Tantangara Creek that contains the Galaxia to stop trout and Climbing Galaxia incursion. Much of the money is going towards recovering the Macquarie Perch population in the Murrumbidgee through work to improve captive breeding for stocking, and translocation of fish from a dam in the Southern Highlands.

To guard against depletion of the Macquarie perch population if redfin enter the system via the Tantangara tunnel, NSW Fisheries are using some of this money to identify streams or sections of streams in which they could establish refuge population(s). They have been looking at the Kydra, Kybeyan, Badja and Bredbo Rivers as possible locations, as their headwaters seem to be protected from redfin and carp by natural barriers.

Naturally the MAS is concerned about this, as the first three are very important trout streams. Possible sites identified are generally downstream of areas regularly fished for trout. An example is the Kybeyan in the gorge area downstream from the Golden Mile. We have been told that trout stocking will not be affected, and that we will continue to be consulted. We have told Fisheries that the site we believe would best suit the Macquarie Perch and clash least with trout would be downstream from the Countagany Braidwood Road bridge on the Badja, which to our knowledge is rarely fished and not stocked with trout.

The other main issue to come out of the meeting was the realisation that environmental flows from Tantangara are so low that efforts to recover the Macquarie Perch population may be in vain.

Also, in last year's newsletter I said that I thought that because of environmental flows down the Murrumbidgee a self-sustaining brown trout population could be maintained. I could be wrong. Under current Federal and State arrangements the Murrumbidgee is only allocated 10% of its natural flow or 27 gegalitres, but this is not guaranteed, and it has been as low as 3.6%. The schedule of water releases from Tantangara Dam for next season shows that there will be 187 days with no releases, mainly over the summer-autumn period which is the driest and hottest time of the year, thus leaving the river's flow reliant on low, hot, silt and nutrient laden inflows from a couple of small streams downstream. This is not enough to sustain the river's environment, and last year another huge blue-green algae outbreak effected the river from Tantangara dam down past Cooma. Higher water temperatures and loss of the food chain through rises and falls in water levels due to intermittent releases may also affect the trout population as well as the Macquarie Perch population.

Setting and delivering environmental flows is a complex process. The Federal Government has recently announced a review of the *Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Deed*, the document that sets the amount of water that can be allocated to environmental flows in snowy streams including the Murrumbidgee. The MAS will join other organisations in the South-East in calling for a better deal for the Murrumbidgee. If you want some more information a good place to start is a document that can be googled called "*The Forgotten River*".

The Opening

The Annual General Meeting and BBQ will be held on Saturday October 4, commencing at midday at the Kybeyan Hall. BYOG food and drink.

Last years' meeting returned Kerry Pfeiffer as President, Rob Edwards as Treasurer, and me as Secretary. Dues for the coming year are \$20. If you don't pay at the meeting the Treasurer has requested that if possible you pay by electronic transfer: National Australia Bank, Account Name: Monaro Acclimatization Society Kydra Kybeyan Branch

BSB number: 082-535

Account number: 50 962 5740

Reference 2023 Subs

Remitters Name(member(s) Names(s))

Or by cheque made out to Monaro Acclimatization Society Kydra Kybeyan Branch, and sent to Kydra Kybeyan Branch, c/- Rob Edwards, PO Box 2, Nimmitabel NSW 2631.

Also, if possible, can you supply an email contact, as Rob and I want to get away from the time-consuming snail mail by setting up a contact list.

Yours in angling,

Rod Whiteway

9 Thompsons Drive, Tathra NSW 2550, Ph: 02 64945758,

Email: rodney.whiteway@bigpond.com



Here's a very attractive dry fly pattern

Suggestions from the Orvis Guide To Fly Tying

The Orvis Company is a fabulous source of information on all aspects of fly fishing and fly tying. The Flyfisher shop sells the very comprehensive *Orvis Fly-Tying Guide* for those among us who are keen to improve their fly tying skills by purchasing a superb fly tying manual.

In the meantime, here are some very helpful suggestions to help you with your fly tying:

Don't crowd the hook eye – running out of space on the hook shank behind the eye is a common mistake.

Storing your flies – boxes with small individual compartments are particularly good for dry flies so that the fine hackles aren't bent. Always open your fly boxes after fishing to allow the contents to dry. Place a desiccant pack inside the boxes to absorb moisture.

The best selling fly in the world is the Copper John, and these can be tied with copper wire of different colours. Adding rubber legs increases their effectiveness.

Experiment with rotary fly tying – rotate the vice for adding thread, floss, tinsel, wire, dubbing and many braided materials.

In terms of thread sizes you need 3/0 for bigger flies, 6/0 for freshwater streamers and nymphs, and 8/0 for dry flies. These are respectively 210, 160, and 80 denier.

Soft materials give flies realistic movement, so use marabou and soft hackles.

It's okay to substitute materials when tying flies so feel free to substitute with other materials when hard to obtain materials are not available.

Count out the materials you need before you begin tying. This is one of the simplest ways to increase your fly tying speed. If you want to tie half a dozen of a particular fly then lay out six of everything that you need, including the hackles.

Be accurate with thread wrappings – a common problem is using too many needless wraps of thread. Making a few accurate and firm wraps creates a more durable fly than using a bunch of haphazard wraps.

Here is how to wrap a regular dry fly collar hackle: after preparing the hackle tie the bare stem to the top of the shank, pointing over the eye, with the dull, concave side of the feather facing towards you. The thread should be in front of the hackle and you wind a hackle forward to the thread just behind the head and then tie it off.

Judging hackle sizes is important so a hackle gauge is a handy tool.

Dubbing – use coarser dubbing for nymphs and wet flies and fine dubbing for dry flies. A material containing thick, coarse fibres yields a thicker body and imitates the legs of the natural nymph. Rabbit dubbing is ideal for the bodies of small nymphs and wet flies, squirrel and Antron are also good, and so is Angora Goat.

Use CDC feathers to make the wings of dry flies. A CDC feather placed under the wings of an Elk Hair caddis increase the buoyancy of this time-tested fly.

To make parachute wing posts use polypropylene yarn. You can use white, or fluorescent pink, or fluorescent orange to make wings easy to spot on the water.

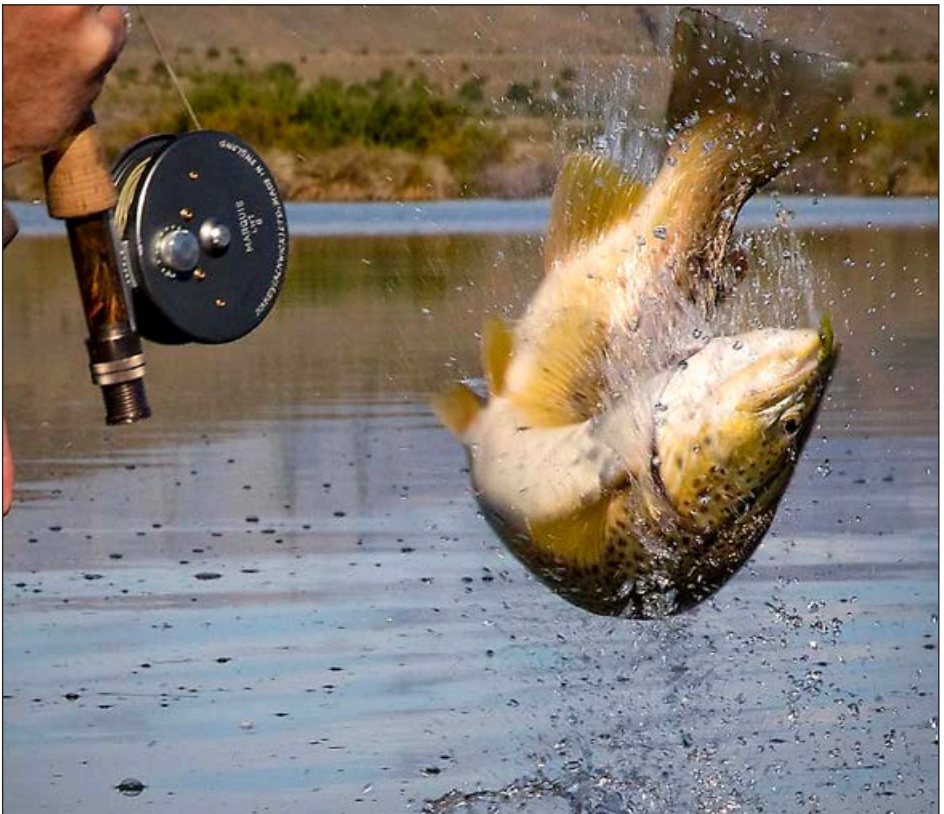
Take a small section of the yarn and wind it under the hook and then wrap up the wing to make a firm base for the hackle feather.

Quills make great dry fly bodies, so stripping hackle quills and peacock herl will provide excellent bodies. The long feathers from the base of hackle capes are ideal for this and they are often wasted. Place the quills in a dish of water to soften them before tying them in as dry quills tend to crack and split. You can leave the body with the natural colour of the quill, or allow it to dry and then colour it with a permanent marker. It is also good to strengthen the quill body with a drop of cement.

Peacock herl bodies can be strengthened by twisting the herl around a piece of thread and making a rope. You can also use fine wire as the base and wrap the herl around the fine wire.

Glass beads brighten flies and catch more trout. Small glass beads of various colours can be used to brighten the heads of flies and attract the attention of fish.

Use dubbing loops: first make a 4-5 inch long loop of thread, then lightly smear with dubbing wax. Next spread a pinch of dubbing in the loop and spin the loop to form a miniature rope, then wrap the twisted loop to create the fly body.



A very energetic and high spirited fish

More on Magpies

... from Bill Jeans

Recently I introduced Messrs Gadd, Golding and McMahon to *Magnus the Magpie*.

Two years ago I wrote an article in our newsletter about finding a magpie up at the Bundarra cabins near Omeo with fishing line wrapped around his left leg. The line and the attached stick were preventing the bird from flying properly.

Donald and Alister (both Scots, hence - *Magnus*) and I managed to net the bird and remove the line (braid).

I was very pleased to recently be reacquainted with Magnus. He greeted us

each morning and evening and enjoyed small pieces of scotch fillet fed to him by hand. One toe on the left foot is still at an odd angle (not a result of my surgery), but he was very busy doing his fatherly duties taking food to the nest.

Speaking of nests, Peter Golding noticed the nest of a Spotted Pardalote in a sandy bank along the Mitta Mitta. We sat there for some time watching the birds enter and exit. Both of these 'twitcher' incidents helped take our minds off the lousy fishing: water too high and too cold, and no insect activity.



Magpies – very Australian residents



A sunny day and a great time to gather at the casting pool

**The VFFA thanks our
loyal sponsors in 2025**



FLY OF THE MONTH

Bill Beck's "Jassid Beetle"



Here is another great fly that is worth a second look. It was originally featured in our April 2010 newsletter, and for those heading to Tassie it's worth tying up.

Some year's ago your editor asked Jim Allen if he had any thoughts on a "Fly of the Month". His reply was along the lines, "We look like getting some good Jassid fishing this season in Tasmania, so give my mate Bill Beck a call. He has a superb Jassid pattern and I'm sure he will tell you all about it."

So I phoned Bill Beck and he was more than happy to provide a sample of his fly – and it does look a beauty – along with details on how to tie it. Apparently every six or seven years the Tasmanian highland lakes experience an emergence of these little black and red beetles. They are leaf hoppers and live under the bark of the very common eucalypt trees. They emerge in the autumn – from late March to mid May – and if conditions are right, large numbers somehow manage to fall onto the surface of those highland lakes. And when they do, the trout queue up and feed on them with gay abandon. A decent fall of Jassids is a known and eagerly anticipated Tasmanian angling phenomenon.

All that's needed, apparently, is some sunshine and a few warm days to bring them on. Unfortunately, just when things were looking good, a cold southerly with howling winds set the schedule back, but that's Tasmania. So those heading to Tassie need to stock up on Jassid patterns, and the one given below has accounted for thousands of unsuspecting trout.

Materials:

Hook: Size 14 Kamasan B405

Thread: 6/0 Red

Body: Bright red Antron dubbing

Wingcase: 4mm Evasote Foam – black

Hackle: Black cock

Method:

1. Cut a strip of the black foam approximately 7 mm wide and tie it on the hook shank at the halfway point so that it is facing back over the bend.
2. Bind the foam down firmly with the thread, taking the thread back and just beyond the bend. The foam is now facing backwards from the hook bend.
3. Dub some red Antron on the thread and wind the dubbing forward over the crushed section of the foam to form a nice fat body. (Be careful to leave enough space near the eye to tie off the wingcase and tie on the hackle.)
4. Now bring the foam strip forward over the dubbed Antron to form the wing case. Bind it down, tie it off, and trim away the excess foam.
5. Tie in the hackle, wind on 4 or 5 turns, then tie it off and whip finish to complete your Jassid.



Fishing the Upper Yarra



Let's start them fly casting when they're young!

VFFA 2025 meetings & other activities

November 2025

- 7 Fri – 9 Sun Annual trip to Warrnambool
- 20 Thursday General Meeting – 5:30 pm at the Fly Fisher store, 211 Moray Street, South Melbourne, to be hosted by Andrew Fuller
- 26 Wednesday Council Meeting – 6:30pm at the Kelvin Club – the last Council Meeting for the year

December 2025

- 2 Tuesday Christmas Dinner – 6:00 pm at the Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club – 129 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park, located next to the Kerferd Road Pier. (Parking is free on the north side of Beaconsfield Parade.)
- Speaker – Peter Morse

January 2026

- 28 Wednesday First Council Meeting for 2026 – 6:30pm at the Kelvin Club